

REMARKS

Claims 14-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant has significantly amended independent claims 14 and 22 to more accurately claim the subject matter illustrated in FIG. 5 and described in the accompanying text of the detailed description in the present application, and requests cancellation of claim 30. Also, as claims 16 and 17 contain restrictions now contained in currently amended claim 14, Applicant requests cancellation of these claims. Likewise, as claims 24 and 25 contain restrictions now contained in currently amended claim 22, Applicant requests cancellation of these claims. Applicant submits that the amendments made to independent claims 14 and 22 are well-supported in FIG. 5 and pages 14-19 of the present application, and that a 35 USC 112 rejection cannot be sustained on these claims.

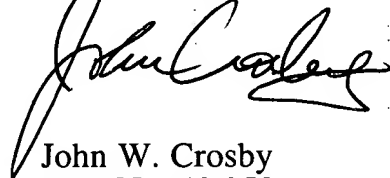
Furthermore, claims 14-30 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by either Miller et al. (US 6,310,874) or Li et al. (US 6,535,507). Applicant submits that claims 14 and 22, as currently amended, contain limitations not found in Miller or Li, as neither Li nor Miller teach the limitation of using a flooding timer or a flooding restart timer as described and claimed in the present application and currently amended claims. Therefore, a rejection based on 35 USC 103 cannot be sustained as not all of the claimed elements can be found in the combination of Miller and Li.

Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims are currently patentable and requests Examiner to place the present application in condition for allowance. If there are any matters the Examiner feels may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

INVITATION TO TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

In the event that the Examiner feels that there are remaining issues that may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Crosby", is written over the typed name.

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